

**Reasons for Decision:**

**Order # AP1819-0207**

<name removed> appealed that their income assistance benefits had been cancelled.

The Department stated that <name removed> was directed by letter on <date removed>, to apply for the Federal Old Age Security Pension (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) as they have been in Canada for ten years and should be eligible for these federal benefits.

As Employment and Income Assistance is a program of last resort, any other means of support or income must be sought. <name removed> was eligible and received their first federal program payment in <date removed> along with a retroactive payment. The retroactive payment was <amount removed>, and ongoing gross monthly payments were <amount removed>, increased to <amount removed> effective <date removed>.

An overpayment was assessed for income assistance benefits they received in <dates removed>, to which they were not entitled due to the OAS and GIS payments they received. <name removed>'s income assistance budget is <amount removed>, and OAS and GIS payments are <amount removed>. As <name removed>'s income from OAS and GIS exceed their income assistance budget, they are therefore ineligible, and the file was closed for <date removed>.

At the hearing, the Department representative advised the overpayment has been paid in full.

<name removed> attended the hearing with an interpreter, their spouse and adult child. The appellant stated that the gross OAS and GIS payments are not much higher than their income assistance budget. Due to their not being eligible for EIA, they now does not have medical coverage. The appellant said they understands that EIA had to close their file, and did not dispute the overpayment, however requests that their medical coverage through EIA continue. Along with other medical needs, they and their spouse need new hearing aids, and they cannot afford them without health coverage.

After carefully reviewing the written and verbal information, the Board has determined that the Department has assessed <name removed>'s eligibility for assistance according to the legislation and regulations, and confirms the Director's decision to deny them assistance based on their income exceeding their total needs budget. The Board regrets that the family is no longer eligible for health benefits through the EIA program. However, the Department representative advised that the family might be eligible for one-time grants to provide some assistance to them, which they will discuss with the

Department. Therefore, the Board has confirmed the decision of the Director, and the appeal has been dismissed.

## **DISCLAIMER**

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